



Child Care and Development Programs

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

California Department of Education (CDE) child care and development programs, administered through the Child Development Division (CDD), simultaneously provides child care services for low-income families who need child care and a quality, developmentally-based program for enrolled children.

NEED: Of the more than six million California children 14 years of age or younger, CDE estimated that in 1994, approximately 1.6 million were eligible for subsidized child care. Of these, approximately 140,000 full-time equivalent children, just under 20% of these eligible children, were being served by CDE programs.

ENROLLMENT IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BY AGE GROUP - MAY 1994

AGE GROUP:	CHILDREN	%
Infants/Toddlers	12,600	9%
Preschool	53,200	38%
School-age	<u>73,200</u>	<u>53%</u>
TOTAL	140,000	100%

CHILD CARE FOR PARENTS AT WORK OR IN TRAINING

GENERAL CHILD CARE: The bulk of CDE child care services are provided through center-based programs contracted by school districts, county offices of education, and other public agencies, as well as private agencies, local community action organizations and other for-profit and nonprofit corporations.

CDE also contracts with a small number of family day care home networks to provide direct child care. Additionally, CDE has contracts with college campus and migrant child care centers for services.

ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT: This program allows parents to choose the type of child care they want from an array of child care environments, including both, family day care and center based care. Alternative Payment agencies verify family eligibility and provide payment management and support services.

PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS:

STATE PRESCHOOL: School districts, county offices of education and nonprofit agencies provide part-day care for children of preschool age, from three to five years old. State preschool is modeled after the federal Head Start program.

LATCHKEY: Latchkey programs offer educational and recreational activities to school-age children before and immediately after school and during school vacation periods. Under the provisions of the Latchkey enacting; legislation, half the children are subsidized and half are from families paying the full cost for care.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

CDE/CDD administers a number of specialized programs adapted to unique child care needs, including:

School-Age Parenting and Infant Development (SAPID)
Respite Child Care,
Exceptional Needs and Severely Handicapped Child Care

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CDE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	1992 CHILDREN	1994 CHILDREN
Full Time Care:		
• General Child Care	48,850	71,400
Part-Day, School Day:		
• Preschool & Latchkey	53,030	58,800
• Federal Block Grant	<u>5,458</u>	<u>9,800</u>
TOTAL	107,338	140,000

Need is demonstrated by the parent(s) being unavailable to care for the child because employment, training, or incapacity interferes. Need is also demonstrated when the child has experienced or is at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Eligibility: To qualify for child care subsidies through CDE/CDD programs, families must meet income requirements. For most state run programs, including State Preschool and General Child Care programs, family income must be at or below 84% of the state median. Families receiving subsidies through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant program are eligible for subsidies at or below 75% of the state median.

LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

Priorities: CDE reported in June 1991 that approximately 255,000 children were on waiting lists for subsidized care. Since need for service far outstrips program capacity, priorities for service play a major role in who participates.

Priority for service is given to children in need of protective services, children with special needs, and families with the lowest income adjusted for size.

Cost to Families: With the exception of Child Protective Services, State Preschool, Severely Handicapped and SAPID programs, families pay fees on a sliding scale determined by family income. Families below 50% of the state median income pay no subsidies for child care.

CDE Regulation: Caregiver to child ratios are regulated. Almost all subsidized providers are required to be licensed by the California Department of Social Services. Providers and centers follow California Title 5 licensing standards when serving a majority of families and children within the CDE subsidized program. CDE requires certain providers who are exempt from licensure to undergo a background check through the TrustLine registry.

Subsidized centers must incorporate education, parent and community involvement, parent education, nutrition, and staff development components into their programs. CDE conducts contract compliance reviews of both public and private contractors. Due to budget constraints, CDE conducts these reviews on a four year cycle.

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

CDE also administers contracts with local agencies to provide information and referral services to parents about available child care. R&R's work with local Alternative Payment agencies to refer families to participating providers. Frequently, the same agency operates both programs. R&R agencies assist families regardless of income.

CDE BUDGET

CDE child care programs fall under the Proposition 98 funding guarantee. CDE child care and development program funding comes from:

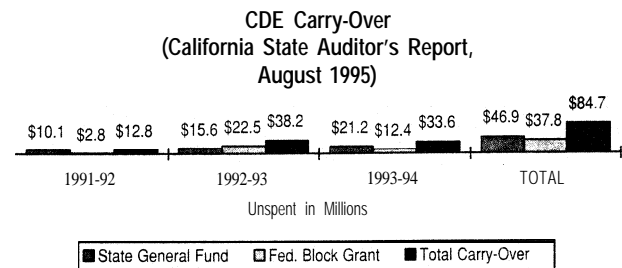
- **State General Funds:** Since the end of World War II, the state has funded CDE programs to provide child care to low income families.
- **Federal Block Grant:** The Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) subsidizes child care to families with incomes at or less than the 75th percentile of the state median income. These funds have been used to expand and improve the quality of CDE programs.

- **Title IV-A At-Risk:** These funds, administered by CDE through an interagency agreement with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), are used to provide child care services to working low income families at risk of becoming AFDC dependent.

CDE CHILD CARE FUNDING			
(Amounts are represented in Millions)			
	93-94	94-95	95-96
FUND SOURCE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	CURRENT
State General Fund	\$ 427	\$ 432	\$ 458*
CCDBG	\$ 101	\$ 102	\$ 132
Federal At-Risk	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 39
TOTAL	\$ 564	\$ 570	\$ 612

* The 1995-96 State General Fund allocation of \$471 does not include the cost of living adjustment of \$12.1 million, recently approved for the 1995-96 year.

CDE CARRY-OVER: Since 1991, with the inception of CCDBG funding, CDE has experienced a carry-over of both federal and state moneys.



Unexpended general funds are recouped and reallocated to programs in succeeding years. CDE submits an annual budget plan to the Legislature during the budget hearing process. Previous carry-over funding in 1992-93 was spent in the 1994-95 budget year, and 1993-94 carry-over is planned for expenditure in the 1995-96 year.

SOURCES

California Department of Education, Child Development Division
Waiting Their Turn: CDE, June 1991
Matrix of Key Variables and Key Programs, January 1993
AB 2184 Task Force, California Department of Education
California State Auditor Report: CDE, August, 1995

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